

You Can Help Your Children Do Better on Tests

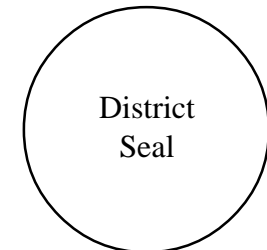
- Attend parent information meetings. Ask questions about the major tests given to students and other ways academic achievement is measured.
- Visit your school to see what and how students are learning.
- Know when the major tests such as the STAR test will be given and what grade levels and subject areas will be covered.
- Share test-like material that comes to the home, such as opinion surveys or sample voting ballots.
- Discuss with your children the importance of doing their best on assignments and tests.
- Make sure your children get a good night's rest and breakfast before a big test.
- Discuss coming tests with your children and try to reduce pre-test anxieties.
- Do not plan activities that will take your children away from school on testing days.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences to find out how well your children are achieving and what they need to do to improve.

To Know More

You are encouraged to contact the school for additional information about your child's learning. Information about the tests students are taking at your school also is available.

Helping Your Children Achieve

Sample Brochure



Northern California School District
1234 No Name Street
Anytown, CA 00000-0000
Phone: 222-555-1111
Fax: 222-555-2222

Principal: Mr. John Jones

April 1999

Suggestions for Parents

As you talk with your children's teachers about results of the 1999 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program, one question you may have is "How can I help them do better?" You want your students to do well in school, and what you do at home can make a difference.

Parents or guardians play an important role in their students' education. Positive attitudes of families about completing school assignments, learning new skills, and "doing your best" can affect how well students achieve. The results of research about learning show that a great deal can be done at home to increase a student's academic performance.

There are many things you can do to support your students' education. The idea is to encourage students to expand their knowledge and practice what they are learning at school. Some activities for helping your students in reading, writing, spelling, mathematics, and other academic areas follow.

In Reading and Writing

- Talk with your children about their studies, homework, and what they did at school.
- Listen to your children read and read stories aloud to them.
- Have a family time when you read the newspaper, a magazine, or a book, and your children read their own books.
- Talk about what you and your children are reading and words they do not understand.
- Encourage your children to write such things as shopping lists, thank-you notes, requests, short stories, recipes, and journals.
- Set a limit on the amount of time your children watch television. Watch and discuss television programs with them whenever possible.
- Take your children to the library regularly and help them select their books.

In Mathematics

- Attend parent education classes about mathematics to prepare for questions that your children might ask at home.
- Check with your children every day to make sure homework assignments are completed.

- Ask questions about mathematics and solve problems as you play games, watch television, or prepare a favorite recipe.
- Show children how you use mathematics in what you do every day (e.g., cooking, crafts, automobile repair, speedometer reading, shopping).
- Help your children read charts or graphs in newspapers, magazines, or television, and talk about what they mean.

In Other Academic Areas

Other academic areas such as science and history challenge students to combine reading and mathematics skills with their knowledge of the subject. As students read about a given subject, they learn the vocabulary and knowledge to complete assignments and answer questions on tests.

Parents should share their interests in any of these academic areas because children become interested in what is discussed at home. Family trips might include visits to museums and historic sites. Television viewing might include one night a week when the family chooses to learn about a topic of the student's choice. Newspapers, magazine articles, or television programs about a new scientific discovery or an important historical event should be shared and discussed.